Donated by C. H. Utley
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MINUTES

—OF THE—

30th Annual Session

—OF THE—

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

—CONVENED WITH—

RACHEL CHURCH

OCTOBER 22ND 1898.

ELDER ELI SEBASTIAN, MODERATOR.
GEORGE W. MILES, CLERK.

The next session will be held with Friendship Church five miles East of Elkin, N.C., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October 1899.

ABSHERS, N.C.
THE CURFEW PRINT:
1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 1998.

Introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J.W.Walker, text Eph. 2: 19–20 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers &c."

1st. The delegates assembled in the church. Song: "Come we that love the Lord &c." Prayer offered by Eld. Isom Edwards.

2nd. Called for associational letters, twelve were handed in and read.

3rd. Invited newly constituted churches to seats with us, when Fair View church presented a letter which was read and her delegates seated; Pleasant Grove and Center churches united with us by application and recommendation, and Bethel church by letter.

4th. On motion, retain Eld. Eli Sebastian Moderator, and George W.Miles Clerk.

5th. On motion, invited correspondents of our faith and order: when Elders M.E.Simcox and David Roten from the M't'n Union Association and Eld. Isom Edwards from the Little River accepted seats.

6th. On motion, invited transients and visitors of our faith and order: Eld. J.O.Wood from the Primitive Association and Henry Jennings from Center church accepted seats.

7th. On motion, authorized the Moderator to make all temporary appointments during this session.

8th. Appointed Elders David Roten and M.E.Simcox to preach at the stand to day.

9th. Appointed A.Caudill, J.M.Gentry and F.M.Walker with delegates of this church to arrange preaching during this session.

10th. Appointed J.T.Holbrook, J.M.Owens, O.L.Darnell, F.M.Richardson and Jasper Felts committee of arrangements: invited Moderator, Clerk and correspondents to sit with them.

11th. Appointed J.M.Harrold, D.M.Hall and Calvin Jennings committee on Finance.

12th. Appointed J.N.Brooks and Wm Harrold committee on Sabbath Schools.

13th. Appointed W.F.Gregory and J.A.Pruitt committee on Resolutions.

14th. Appointed G.W.Miles to write a corresponding letter to the Little River Association; H.A.Hanks to M't'n Union; and H.A.Adams to the Blue Ridge and have them ready for inspection this evening.

15th. Appointed the Clerks of the various churches in our bounds committee on obituaries.

16th. Suspended business 30 minutes.

EVENING SESSION.

1st. Called roll of delegates and marked absentees.

2nd. On motion, Committee of Arrangements made their report and were discharged.

3rd. On motion, agreed to take up items as they appear on Bill of Arrangements.

4th. Finance committee reported, received from the churches $14.35. Report received and committee discharged.

5th. Called on correspondents to report: A. Caudlll, J. W. Brooks and W. F. Gregory visited M't'n Union; N. Waddell, T. P. Hanks, W. F. Gregory, J. O. Wood and Eli Sebastian visited Little River; Eli Sebastian visited Blue Ridge. Report received and brethren discharged.

6th. Called on brethren appointed to write corresponding letters to report, who reported and were discharged.

7th. Appointed J. A. Roberson, H. A. Hanks, L. & J. O. Wood, Eli Sebastian and W. F. Gregory as correspondents to the M't'n Union Association; W. F. Gregory, Eli Sebastian, L. R. Pardew, A. Caudill, H. A. Hanks, R. Wilmoth and Morgan Lyon to Little River: H. A. Adams, A. Caudill, W. L. Shumate, J. M. Owens and J. O. Wood to the Blue Ridge.

8th. Called on committee on Sabbath Schools to report, who reported, viz: We, being under a command to search the scriptures, endorse Bible reading in Sabbath School work; and suggest to our churches (those who have not) to organize Sabbath schools and strive for their perpetual upbuilding.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Brooks, Ch'm Com.

Report receivd and brethren discharged.

9th. Called on committee on Ministry to report, who reported for to-morrow: 1st. Isom Edwards; 2nd. M. E. Simcox; 3rd. David Roten. Report received and committee discharged.

10th. Called on committee on Resolutions to report, who reported, viz: Resolved, 1st That we ask our Ministers to urge before the layity the necessity of their presence at their respective church meetings. 2nd. That our Ministers hold protracted meetings and otherwise preach together as much as possible. 3rd. That we look after the Scriptural objects of Charity. 4th

That we return our thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends of this vicinity for their hospitality to us during this session.

Bespectfully submitted.
W.F.Gregory, Ch'm Com.

Report received and committee discharged.

11th. Called on the Brother, who was appointed last year to write a circular letter for this year's minutes, to report, who reported: The letter adopted and ordered spread upon these minutes.

12th. Appointed the following Union meetings, viz: At Round Mountain church 1st Saturday in December, 1898. Elds. M.E.Simcox, David Roten and J.M.Owens to attend. At Roaring River church 4th Saturday in Nov. 1898. Elds. J.O.Wood, M.E,Simcox to attend. At Bethany church 4th Saturday in July, 1899. Elds. M.E.Simcox, David Roten and J.W.Walker to attend. At Friendship church 2nd Saturday in Aug. 1899. Elds. J.O.Wood and W.F.Gregory to attend. At Fair View church 2nd Saturday in Aug. 1899. Flds. W. F.Gregory, J.M.Owens and Eli Sebastian to attend. At Center church, 1st Saturday in Aug. 1899. Elds. J.N.Brooks, David Roten, M.E.Simcox, and J.O.Wood to attend.

13th. Ordered Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Articles of Faith spread upon these Minutes.

14th. Appointed our next Association to convene with Friendship church, five miles East of Elkin, N.C., on Friday, before the fourth Lord's day in Oct. 1899. Eld. J.M.Owens to preach the introductory sermon, J.N.Brooks, alternate.

15th. Appointed the clerk treasurer, and ordered that he superintend the printing, and distribution of 600 copies of these minutes, and allow him $4.00 for his services.

16th. On motion, adjourned to time and place of our next Association. Prayer offerrd by David Roten. Benediction by Moderator.

GEORGE W.MILES, CLERK. ELI SEBASTIAN, MODERATOR.

SABBATH.

Remarks by Eli Sebastian. Song: "Children of the heavenly King & c." Prayer offered by J.M.Owens.

1st. Sermon delivered by Isom Edwards.

2nd. Sermon by M.E.Simcox, text: Songs of Solomon 6:3.

3rd. Sermon by David Roten, text: St. Matthew 4: 4.

There was in attendance a large and orderly congregation to hear the word preached. We hope much good was done in the name of the Holy child, Jesus. Amen!

CLERK.

OBITUARIES.

J.M.Caudill was born Dec. 25th 1874, and died Feb. 2nd 1898. He professed faith in Christ in early life. Joined the church at Roaring River on Tuesday after the 4th Saturday in Aug. 1889; where his membership remained until his death.

This youth has been taken away,
He has gone to the judgement day;
O! may our souls be ready too,
When the dark waters we pass through.

Jane A.Gentry (whose maiden name was Jane A.Burcham) was born Oct. 23rd 1834, and departed this life May 20th 1896. She professed faith in Christ in early life. She was married to Stanley Gentry May 4th 1854. There was born unto them three children, two of whom profess Christ to know. She joined the Cool Springs Baptist church shortly after her conversion, but afterwards moved her membership to Roaring River church. She went into the constitution of Round Hill church where she remained until death. Her last days were days of suffering and pain which was borne with patience. Could we but see through the pearly portals of the New Jerusalem and view "Aunt" Jane around the throne, we could exclaim "It is enough" "It is enough."

Farewell dear children here below,
My Jesus calls and I must go,
Farewell my aged companion too;
The summons soon will come for you.

Lift up your eyes above the cloud,
Your bodies soon must wear the shroud;
For me, lament not, weep nor cry,
Now to you all a last good bye.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Having been appointed by the Primitive Baptist Association at its 29th annual session to write a letter in regard to the principles of the Baptist, I will give a glance at some of the most prominent features of Baptist principles. I will not endeavor to trace historically the baptist people by a succession of churches from Apostolic days, knowing that no people can claim an adoption into the family of grace by reason of age or descent of churches, but the true church may ever be known by its vital principles and gospel practices. The children of Christ have the spirit of Christ and as His meat and drink was to do the will of the Father, so the desire of christians is to do the will of their

Spiritual Father. The scriptures are the revealed will of God, and through this medium we may know our duty to each other and to our Creator; and through this source, we get the idea of regeneration, or second birth. The enmity of the carnal mind must be subdued, the spirit of the mind renewed, the soul brought by the power of God from under the Law, and given an inheritance under the Covenant of grace. To all those who have been thus actuated upon, Why tarryest thou? Arise and be baptised. After receiving baptism, the saints should set their faces Zionward, and cry eternal life! eternal life! And should hold the scriptures as the God-given way-bill, or gospel signboard pointing to the celestial fields of ultimate glory and eternal peace. It is unjust and unfaithful to question any scriptural mandate, whether baptism, sacrament, feetwashing, or any other command of God, first look for the foot-prints of Jesus, then discharge these duties as the Bible-pattern sets forth. Christ was baptised in the river Jordan, and came up straitway out of the water. To attempt to perform this duty in any way, save that shown by the example of our Lord, is to cease to be servants and venture to be dictators, and hoist the opinion of poor sinful men above the example of the meek and lowly Lamb. After baptism the sacrament, or Lord's Supper follows, and after the supper, or supper being ended, St. John XIII: 4–5, "He riseth from supper and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin and began to wash the deciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." The feet of none except disciples were washed, neither should the ordinances be extended beyond its original limits. One might claim no instance is given in the acts or epistles of its having been practised, but let me ask, Is there an account in the New Testament, of its having been revoked? No. But it is mentioned but once. No one familiar with the New Testament should believe it is only spoken of once in this book. And if it occurred but once do you so understand the characteristic of God that he must make a repetition of a command before it is valid or binding? Jesus had one birth, one baptism, one death, and one resurrection. None of these were repeated. The word eternity is found but once in the Bible—Isaiah 57:15. Can we doubt any of these things for want of their repetition? A servant is not greater than his lord. "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." A child of God should feel as dependent on Him for help, guidance, salvation, and eternal life as natural children are upon natural parents. And while troubles may assail and sorrows be many, bow in humble submission to the will of an allwise Providence. I have endeavored to stand on grounds of defense

yet I cannot claim perfection for my letter only in purpose.

My letter goes forth before the world,
Some will endorse it, some stones will hurl:
God pardon errors if such there be,
Bless truth and save us all eternally.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Miles.

CONSTITUTION.

1st. This Association shall be known by the name of Primitive Baptist Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent in the Association; who on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to five delegates. In their letters is to be expressed their number in full fellowship, Baptized, received by letter, by application and good recommendation, dismissed by letters excluded and dead since the last Association.

2nd. The number thus chosen and convened shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe any internal right over any church in her union.

3rd. The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular Decorum.

4th. The Association shall have a Moderator and Secretary, who shall be chosen annually, by a majority of the votes of the members present, a majority of the churches being represented.

5th. New churches or any regular Baptist church of Jesus Christ of our Faith and order in good standing either dismissed by letter from Sister Associations, or by application and good recommendation, by sending up letters and delegates shall be admitted into the union.

6th. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

7th. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8th. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings, the best method for accomplishing this purpose shall be at the discretion of the future Association.

9th. We think it necessary to have an Association fund to defray the expences of the Association, and it is the duty of each church in the union, to contribute such sums as they think proper

to the Association, and those moneys shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer who shall be accountable to the Association for the same, and the Association shall appropriate the money thus contributed to any purpose they may think proper.

10th. There shall be an Association book wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by a Secretary appointed by the Association, who shall receive a reasonable compensation for his services.

11th. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourn.

12th. Amendment to this form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Association, when they may deem it expedient by giving the churches twelve months notice.

13th. The Association shall act as an advisory council and shall endeavor to preserve a general union of the churches, and also preserve a chain of communion among the churches and give advice in matters of difficulty.

14th. The Association shall enquire into the cause, if any church fails to represent at any time in the Association.

15th. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in her union that shall violate the rules of this constitution, or deviate from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

16th. The Association may correspond with Sister Associations and invite any brother in the ministry in good standing, or that can bring a good recommendation of his standing, who may be of our faith and order, to a seat in the Association, who may be present at the time of its sitting.

17th. The Association shall have power to adjourn to any future time or place it may think proper.

18th. The benevolent institutions of the day shall be no bar nor test to fellowship, but all shall be free to sustain or not sustain the same as they may choose.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer

2nd. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, when he is about to make his speech.

3rd. The person thus speaking, shall not be interrupted in his speech by any except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.

4th. He shall strictly adhere to his subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who speaks before, by making remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light or idea.

5th. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association, without liberty obtained from the body, for his absence.

6th. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject, without liberty obtained from the Association.

7th. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of public speech.

8th. No member of the Association shall address another by anyother appellation than that of brother.

9th. The Moderator shall not interupt any member, nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except he violates the Rules of Decorum.

10th The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Secretary and called over as often as the Association requires.

11th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as anyother member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he may give the casting vote.

12th. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of these rules, shall be reproved by the Association, as shall be deemed proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in one only true and living God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

2nd. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice.

3rd. We believe in the doctrine of Election by Grace.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin, and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will or ability.

5th. We believe that sinners are called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that all who are thus regenerated and born again by the Spirit of God, shall never fall finally away.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7th. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of those ordinances; and we believe the only true mode of Baptism is by Immersion.

8th. We believe in the reserrection of the dead and a general judgement, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9th. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except such as are regularly called, and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POSTOFFICE.	NAM
Bethany	Sebastian&Elledge	Round M't'n, N.C.	J.M.Owens, D.Wood, C.L.
Bethel	J.N.Brooks	Wiles, "	J.N.Brooks, J.F.Higgins,
Cane Creek	Gregory	Dehart, "	H.A.Adams, W.J.Felts, W
Center	J.N.Brooks&D.Roten	Mulberry, "	H.C.Jennings, L.O.Elledge
Elkin Valley	Gregory&Woodruff	Elkin, "	O.L.Darnell, C.A.Cooper
Fair View	Gregory, Wood&Owens	Halls Mills, "	D.M.Hall
Friendship	B.Woodruff	Rusk, "	J.M.Gentry
Liberty Knob	Wm Miles	Miles, "	G.W.Miles, H.A.Wood, Jo
Oak Level	Sebastian	Benham, "	G.W.Jordan, J.P.Cockerha
Pleasant Grove	G.W.Adams	Adley, "	J.W.Mahaffy, W.M.Crabb
Rachel	Sebastian	Lomax, "	R.Wilmoth, Thos. Billings
Roaring River	Wm Miles&J.O.Wood	Joynes, "	J.T.Holbook, M.G.McBrid
Round Hill	Wm Miles&J.M.Owens	Dockery, "	Morgan Lyon, T.P.Hanks,
Round M't'n	Owens, Gregory&Elledge	Round M't'n, "	A.Caudill, W.F.Gregory,
White Oak	A.McKnight, Isom Edwards	Parks, "	H.A.Hanks, F.M.Walker,
Zion	Sebastian, Walker&Owens	Viands, "	Eli Sebastian, W.M.Harro